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Soviets Express Regret; Confirm Wallenberg Dead

PARIS (JTA) — A Soviet diplomat and a state prosecutor hinted here last week that Raoul Wallenberg probably died years ago at the orders of Lavrenti Beria. They made it

Kashlev said the investigation into Wallenberg's death would continue. He promised that "should we learn something, we will make the facts known at once."

"We would like to know more details about how this man (Wallenberg) died so that we could sanctify his memory," the Soviet envoy said.

Kashlev offered little hope to those who believe Wallenberg is alive. "The people who destroyed Wallenberg also destroyed all the documents relating to him before being destroyed in their turn," he said.

Observers here saw that as a direct reference to former secret police chief Beria, who was killed in the power struggle that followed Stalin's death.

It also seemed to observers that according to what Kashlev said, the Soviet government's most recent investigations confirmed Wallenberg's death.

Wallenberg was arrested when the Red Army entered Budapest in January 1945 and was not heard from since. Reports persist he is alive, though Soviet sources insist he died in Lubyanka prison over 40 years ago.



Raoul Wallenberg

Photo courtesy of
Simon Wiesenthal Center

clear their government now deeply regrets his fate.

In fact, the Soviet Union would like to "sanctify his memory," reporters here were told.

The remarks were the first time Soviet officials have referred to the Swede who saved tens of thousands of Jews on the record.

The references to Wallenberg were made by Ambassador Yuri Kashlev, chief of the Soviet delegation to the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe — also known as the Helsinki Conference — and Vladimir Andreyev, a member of the delegation.

Andreyev, a deputy to the Soviet Union's prosecutor-general, told a news conference. "We regret deeply the death of this noble person but we know nothing more concerning his fate."

He said his office investigated Wallenberg's death and it "now is certain that he died in prison" in the immediate post-war years. "He was not the only such victim —

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